

Name Ruth Corner

Graduation year 1939

Today's date: _____ 1991

I. Why did you choose to study at MES?

I was interested in sports & an active
participant.

II. What alternatives did you consider?

Elementary or HIGH SCHOOL Teaching

III. What are some of your fondest memories of being a student at MES?

Making so many friends, especially in residence

IV. What are some of your worst memories of being a student at MES?

In residence dinner rather too formal.

V. With respect to your course work what are some of your fondest memories?

In Theory: I enjoyed the study of ENGLISH.

In Practice: Canoeing & campcraft at Camp Tanamakoon

In Practice: Last term improvement in gymnastics
& apparatus.

VI. With respect to your course work what are some of your worst memories?

Theory: I found The study of anatomy difficult
Practice: I found Modern Dance difficult

VII. What do you remember about the school's principal and board?

Principal expected a high standard of performance,
rather remote for me as a student.

No contact with board

VIII. How do you think most student's paid for their education at MES [summer jobs, parents paid....]?

Parents paid

IX. In what ways have you kept in touch with alumnae of MES?

class of '39: Kept in touch with many special friends to the present.
Our class had reunions every 5 yrs, from our 25th
to our 50th in 1989 - & continuing we hope.

X. What kind of work/volunteer activities did you do as a result of your education at MES?

Director Physical Education, Waterloo College, while
studying for my B.A.

Director Health & Physical Education YWCA 3 yrs.

Director Physical Education Moulton College, Toronto, 3 yrs.

XI. Did you pursue further education following MES? Where?
Why? Felt educational background incomplete.

B.A. University of Western Ont. per Waterloo College &
M.W.O.

B.L.S. University of Toronto 1950.

Public library career to retirement 1984.

XII. PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

- A. Your year of birth: 19 19
- B. Your country of birth: Canada
- C. Country of mother's birth: Canada
- D. Country of father's birth: Canada
- E. When you entered MES what occupations did your parents have?
- Mother's occupation: Homemaker
- Father's occupation: Merchant
- F. Where were you living before coming to MES?
- City: PEPPERLAW
- Province: ONT. Country: Canada
- G. Which school did you attend prior to entering MES?
- SUTTON HIGH SCHOOL
- What grade (level) did you complete at this school? XIII
- Was this a private or public school? Public
- H. If you married, which year did you first do so: 19 _____
- Married to: (name) _____
- Occupation of husband when married: _____

- XIII. Would you be interested in receiving a copy of my abstract when I complete my study? yes

Please list addresses of any MES graduates you know of, besides those from 1939 and 1940.

Best wishes on your project RC

✓

Name Margaret Davison Lathrop Graduation year 1939

Today's date: September 28 1991

I. Why did you choose to study at MES?

Dona Smellie, she is remarkable. She is the one that influenced me. She was the PE teacher at Branksome and when it came time for me to decide what to do, I think they all worried about what is poor Margaret going to do, my mother died and I was sort of raised by Miss Read, and I know dad worried about it, and she talked to Miss Read, and she said I'd probably get married. But in the mean time I wanted to make a living, but in those days that really wasn't necessary. A girl would get married and she figured her husband would look after her. We were just on the edge of starting to be independent I think. Anyway, Dona Smellie, I think she took courses in Norway or something. She came and I was very motivated by her, she was wonderful. She was the one that suggested MES. Had I thought of it. No, but it sounds like my thing. So I went. It was through her that I went. She graduated from MES? ['23] But she went over to Europe and took some course. She was just great.

II. What alternatives did you consider?

III. What are some of your fondest memories of being a student at MES?

Camp Tanamakoon. A wonderful experience for those girls and us. I was there as a counsellor. I was never there as a camper. Miss Hamilton formed the camp in order to give her girls a camping experience, which she felt was very important for the development of a person's personality, independence.... and we really worked at it. We went up there two weeks in June and set up camp and got lectures from her and got to know one another as counsellors, and then when the kids came in we had our own cabin of girls. When the season was over she would ask the girls to assess the counsellors. Which was a new, but very good experience. She would just talk to the girls. If she did not like what she heard you wouldn't come back. I must have got a good report since I was invited back. I was only there one year as a counsellor, and I was there once before as a student. The first year I went to Camp Couching - where we got our track and field and field hockey and all that sort of thing - camp Tanamakoon was where we got our camping experience and then I went back the following summer as a counsellor. Some of the campers became counsellors, but she was looking at us to be the leaders because we had the training. I loved every minute of it. My dad made me a kayak. I took the kayak up there and used to teach canoeing from the kayak. They had riding and everything. It was one of the most progressive camps up there. I always felt it was the best directed camp up there. And the camaraderie between the students and the counsellors and Miss Hamilton was just

wonderful. She was very much the head. We had a very religious and spiritual background in all of this as well. Which I think unbeknownst to me at the time, but that was what it was at the time. She was a wonder. We were not Christians at the time, I wasn't, but it certainly influenced my life. But I didn't recognize it at the time. When we were at MES we had to go to church every Sunday. It didn't matter which church, but we were expected to go. There was no force. But Miss Hamilton was a very devote person herself and I think so was Miss Somers. The staff underneath was sort of leading us in that direction. We never talked about it either. I never talked about it. We had to say grace in the residence but not in the church. Mrs. Marriot was the head of the house, but she ruled with an iron rod. In the second year I was head of the residence and I was supposed to be a monitor to make sure all the girls came in the right time at night, and this sort of thing - I never liked that very much. The kids were always good.

Muriel Nelles was a counsellor with me at Camp Tanamakoon. Rhoda Wood from Edmonton was my best friend. We roomed together most of the time. I kept very little. Clifford Sifton leading a riding club, I don't remember that. Bessie Pitt was very much involved in the Eaton's Girls Club. Some of the graduates went on to this club. She was very involved in that. I went to Branksome Hall, as a little girl, I was familiar with private schools and I never wanted to go into anything else but a private school. There was a school in Whitby, Ontario Ladies College, I had an offer of job there, and then Miss Read from Branksome came back and asked how I would like to come back and teach in the Junior School which I was pleased to do. So I did that. And then I got married. I was champion archer of Ontario. I did very well. I taught archery and picked up those skills at MES. The only thing I did before I went to MES was riding. I have always been a rider. And canoe, dad used to take us to the Welland River and then we sailed. He had a sailboat and we did a lot of sailing. Then at Camp Tanamakoon, I just fell into everything that was there. It was my cup of tea. The canoeing I loved and Dot Jackson was very strict. We learned a lot, far more than anyone gets now I am sure. We had racing turns and I don't know what all. Standing on the gunnels. We had to dump the canoe, and then empty it and right it again. There was all kinds of things. I just loved it. Dot Jackson was very firm and very fair. She got the very best out of you. You never gave her second best it was always your level best because she expected it. I don't remember her living in the residence. The first year I was stuck in a boarding house on Huron street because there was not enough room in the residence. Then in my senior year we were back in St. Georges Street. I loved that first year when we were stuck away with a few senior girls. One of them was Muriel Nelles and we became such close friends. We got to know the woman who owned the house. She snuck cookies up to us and our wash and ironing - nobody else knew about it. Those were perks in those days. No automatic washers.

Charlotte Layton. She was the secretary and a wonderful woman. She was a mainstay there. A lot of the girls got to know her better than I did. I never got to know her too well. I am not sure why just never did.

Muriel Nelles is an excellent fencer. I fenced but I never got into it. These were clubs you could get involved with. I ended up in the riding club and anything of that nature. Winn and a few of the other girls ended up in fencing. Synchronized swimming and fencing were Muriel Nelles' two sports.

Graduation. Who was the speaker? [McCully] I don't remember him. We had a girl from Tokyo. She was delightful. Just delightful. I will never forget her. Dot Jackson teaching her how to dive. She said put your hands up over your head. You went to deep. The next time lift your head a bit. She went to shallow. The next time she got just right and she never ever got it wrong again. She was very close with Miss Layton. How did she come? Was it through a Y or one of the churches? She was sponsored by someone. Patty Stearn she was another great one.

IV. What are some of your worst memories of being a student at MES?

Miss Mariott was tough. You didn't reach for anything, you behaved yourselves. Manners were very important to her. When I was at Branksome we had to take turns sitting at the head table with Miss Read, and she was a remarkable woman. You always watched everything she did. You had to make sure she got the salt and the pepper and hot milk and whatever. I was used to looking around the table to see what people needed. Often my dad was very strict about that at home. When I got to MES and Mrs. Marriott I was used to helping myself to salt and then passing it along. You didn't just leave stuck in front of you. Silly things in a way but in other ways they are not so silly. Miss Somers emphasized that too that there are other people to consider than yourself.

[When did you become a Christian] It began when I went to boarding school. I always said my prayers. I remember being upset because no one would listen to my prayers the first night. Finally the nurse did, but after that I realized no one would listen so I said them myself. I did not realize who I was praying to, I was just brought up to do this. And then at Branksome Miss Read, she was from People's Church and she made sure we all went to our own church. We had to go, there was no two ways about it. Then they had religion classes at Branksome as well. So all this time it was being worked upon and was in the background of my life. Then when I got to MES it was still there. Muriel Nelles was Oxford group and I think Miss Hamilton was. They used to withdraw every morning for prayer time. I was never involved with it. Muriel tried to talk to me about it but I wasn't about to listen in those days. Then I got married and

had children, and after I had children I started to go to church and began to realize I was missing something. I am looking for something other people have. And I wasn't getting in church or in the Sunday homilies. So then Bishop Hunt did a mission, from Toronto, and pointed out to me who this man Jesus Christ was really about and what it meant in my life and what he had done for me, and he became very personal. Suddenly, just like a light bulb, that's what I've been looking for.... I suppose it was always there but it was not pointed out to me.... it was a nurturing all along.

V. With respect to your course work what are some of your fondest memories?

Camp and residence life - I enjoyed the girl I was living with. I enjoyed the smallness of the whole thing. I enjoyed that.

We did a lot in two years. I remember one time having a class of kids in the poorer part of Toronto around Parliament St. Nobody had laces in their shoes, I was being observed that day for teaching, and I said now we are going to play a new game, and we are going to shake our feet and shake our hands, this was all part of the game, well they shook their feet alright and all their shoes went in every direction. Then I thought now what? Then I said the next game is to find your shoes. [Which schools did students do their practice teaching in?] All over. I went to Parliament St. school once a week and taught there. Everyone went in all different directions. We spent about a half a day each week. I cannot remember if we worked on different age groups or not.

[Refresher Courses] I don't remember those, we all left for Christmas, and went home. Mary Barker was another one who taught at Branksome, and I knew she was affiliated some way or another. She taught at Western. She was an awful nice person. You know it is amazing, the PE people turned out to be great bunch of people.

Skating, just think of all the things we did. I didn't think there was anything in the newspapers. I didn't think we were that well known.

We were encouraged to write poems and put on skits. A lot of creative work went on at camp.

Sterndale Bennett taught us speech. I can't remember those classes, he must not have impressed me.

I was paid \$50 for the summer. When I went to teach I was paid \$50 a year plus board because I lived in at Branksome. Wait, it was probably \$50 a month and board. I remember the first pair of shoes I bought with my first pay cheque.

Miss Hamilton didn't teach then anymore.

Ruth Scott was a graduate after I left and I wonder if she is around again. She was Scott then Watt and then she married again. I don't know what her new maiden name is and she is living in Florida. Is there a Laing? [no] She is in PE but I guess not MES.

VI. With respect to your course work what are some of your worst memories?

Modern Dance. Ewwwh. I hated that stuff. I hated modern dance. I was not an actor and never wanted to be. We were supposed to act like a candle. I will never forget acting like a candle's flickering flame. Try to dance like a flickering flame sometime. I hated that course. We had to wear these awful slinky dresses.

VII. What do you remember about the school's principal and board?

Somers was a wonderful woman. A very homely looking person. But very bound and determined that her girls would look smart and well turned out, not muscle bound. And ladies! We were to be ladies first and we were to teach PE. She was very fussy. Appearance - when she walked down the hall she'd say, when you are in front of class you stand up straight, that kind of thing. She was a wonderful woman. Looking back on it. At the time you weren't too impressed, she was just head of the school and staff, but looking back on her, her sense of values were all there and Mrs. Raymer was a good one too. She died? I have a funny feeling she did. She was instructing at MES both years I was there, then she left after I left. She was getting on by that time.

McGee. I remember the name, but we didn't know much what was going on.

We had no idea that the school was going to amalgamate with the U of T. But I am sure the talk must have been going on. We never had any inkling. I was the most shocked individual when I heard. We took anatomy and physiology and remedial physiotherapy at the U of T. That must have been a beginning. It is funny that the Eaton's began the whole thing and they quit it. I always wondered if the education I got there, I suppose with technology and so on it might be better, but I wonder if the graduates are any better? I wonder if they get the camping experience and the actual teaching and doing that we had? The interaction with students and faculty - we lived with those people practically. I thought all I learned has been invaluable for raising a family. Health wise, recreational purposes, teaching, everything, I am still using it for my grandchildren. I did not only use it for getting a job but for my general well-being and the health of my family.

VIII. How do you think most student's paid for their education at MES [summer jobs, parents paid....]?

My father did but it was not an exorbitant amount. It was less than school. It was not much. We had to have rompers for gym and dance clothes. \$50 or so. That did not break anybody. If anybody had the idea that it was a high class school and expensive they were absolutely wrong. We had all walks of like to.

IX. In what ways have you kept in touch with alumnae of MES?

I am not a reunion person. Never have been. I went to a luncheon they had this spring and nobody knew me. In 50 years I had not seen them. I took two of my girls with me and we had a great time.

X. What kind of work/volunteer activities did you do as a result of your education at MES?

I taught at Branksome that year. I was married in September of 40 and I finished of that year. Looking back on it I wish I had taught longer.

XI. Did you pursue further education following MES? Where? Why?

No.

XII. PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

- A. Your year of birth: 19 16
- B. Your country of birth: Canada Toronto
- C. Country of mother's birth: Nova Scotia
- D. Country of father's birth: USa
- E. When you entered MES what occupations did your parents have?
- Mother's occupation: Housewife
- Father's occupation: Engineer
- F. Where were you living before coming to MES?
- City: Toronto
- Province: _____ Country: _____
- G. Which school did you attend prior to entering MES?
- Branksome
- What grade (level) did you complete at this school? 13
- Was this a private or public school? private
- H. If you married, which year did you first do so: 19 40
- Married to: (name) Lathrop
- Occupation of husband when married: Engineer - metallurgist with Union Carbide making \$138 a month - and that was top dollar.

- XIII. Would you be interested in receiving a copy of my abstract when I complete my study? yes



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